

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-02 MC-02 ACDA-05 NSC-05

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----- 029961

R 052100Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USCINCEUR

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 104579

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, TU

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF SPARE PARTS TO TURKEY

REF: A) TEHRAN 3906 B) STATE 94633

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES CONSIDERATIONS RAISED REF A REGARDING TURKISH SPARE PARTS PROBLEM AND SHAH'S INTEREST IN ASSISTING GOT IN OVERCOMING THAT PROBLEM. USG IS ALSO CONCERNED WITH THIS MATTER, BUT OUR EFFORTS TO HELP TURKS ARE SEVERELY CONSTRAINED BY THE LEGISLATIVE PROHIBITION SUSPENDING ALL US MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FMS, AND ISSUANCE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSES FOR EXPORT OF ARMS AND IMPLEMENTS OF WAR TO GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY. UNTIL THAT PROHIBITION IS LIFTED OR OTHERWISE AMELIORATED, WE CANNOT APPROVE THE TRANSFER TO TURKEY OF ANY MILITARY ITEM OF US ORIGIN FOR WHICH ADVANCE APPROVAL OF USG IS NEEDED. WE SIMPLY HAVE NO DISCRETION IN PROPOSED TRANSFERS TO TURKEY

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OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT OF MAP OR FMS ORIGIN IN VIEW OF

EXISTING STATUTES GOVERNING SUCH TRANSFERS.

2. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE THIS POINT TO GOI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE LEST THE ABSENCE OF A RESPONSE BE MISCONSTRUED BY IRANIANS AND POSSIBLY LEAD THEM TO ERRONEOUS CONCLUSION THAT THERE IS ROOM FOR MANEUVER HER. THE SHAH'S REFERENCE TO SUCH TRANSFERS REPRESENTING A "DELICATE MATTER" SUGGESTS THAT HE MAY NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT OUR HANDS ARE LEGALLY BOUND. TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING, YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT IRANIAN AIR FORCE AND OTHER CONCERNED ELEMENTS OF IRANIAN ARMED FORCES ARE FULLY AWARE OF USG POSITION ON TRANSFERS TO TURKEY OF MAP AND FMS ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT. REF B PROVIDES NECESSARY BACKGROUND. KISSINGER

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